



Commission on Improving *the* Status of Children in Indiana

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Julie Whitman

June 13, 2018

Caren Harp, Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Dear Ms. Harp:

The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana, created by Indiana's General Assembly and signed into law by then-Governor Mike Pence in 2013, consists of top-level leaders from all three branches of Indiana's state government. The Commission exists to study and evaluate issues related to vulnerable youth, review and make recommendations concerning legislation, and promote information sharing, best practices, policies and programs that will benefit Hoosier children.

Four task forces are charged with achieving the goals of the Commission's strategic plan. One of those is the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force, charged with the following goal:

Support creative and effective methods of improving assessment, access to treatment, and wraparound resources for vulnerable youth and households in need of mental health and substance abuse services.

The Commission and its Task Force stand ready to serve as key partners in the project to be administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, should this grant be approved.

Specifically, the Commission's Executive Director will coordinate with staff at CJJ and the existing Task Force to ensure minimum duplication and maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the collaborative efforts required by the grant. Should those efforts surface needed policy changes to better serve opioid affected youth, those will be brought to the Commission for consideration.

The timing of this grant is perfect for Indiana. We look forward to working with CJJ on its planning and implementation.

Sincerely,

John R. Hammond, IV
Chair

Julie L. Whitman
Executive Director

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